

# Montana State Library

## Annual Report

### Fiscal Year 1989/90

#### What's your image of a library?

By RICHARD MILLER  
Montana State Librarian



#### Inmates record for blind

By DAVE KIRKPATRICK  
The Montana Standard  
DEER LODGE (AP) — When Montana's blind citizens get recorded books and magazines from the Montana State Library, the voices they listen to frequently are from untold sources.

Unusual because the source is often an inmate in the Montana State Prison participating in the prison's recording program.

On Friday, that program got a boost in the form of two new tape recorders purchased by the library and given to the prison to help expand the program.

Genevieve Allen, a volunteer for the Montana State Library, said the machines, which were purchased by the state and donated to the prison, will help inmates record books and magazines for the blind.

What do you think of when you hear the word "library"? Do you conjure up images from the past of a quiet room with rows of books and a librarian with a card catalog?

#### Librarians to lobby in DC

Five members of Montana's library community, including two from Helena, are traveling to Washington, D.C. this week to lobby their Congressional representatives on legislation critical to library operations in the state.

State Librarian Mary Doggett of White Sulphur Springs and C. State Librarian of Lew Montana's for brary Associ They will ment and b plecommu

#### Shh! Librarians guard privacy

By MELODY PERKINS  
Tribune Staff Writer

Montana librarians must vigilantly guard the privacy rights of their patrons by knowing the state library confidentiality laws and having the courage to adhere to those laws, a state librarian said Tuesday.

Cates said the principle underlying the confidentiality act is that people have the right to read or view whatever they select from public and private libraries without worrying about who else knows of their preferences.

"Shouldn't you be able to go to a library and check out a rare novel or the biography of Karl Marx without having anybody know about it?" Cates asked her fellow librarians.

The problem is, she said, that people — often law-enforcement officers — try to get libraries to release information on patrons.

The FBI, for example, since the mid-1980s, has been operating a "library awareness" program that

Georgia Loomix of the Flathead County Library in Kalispell talked of "sneaky censorship." She told of being beset by people who practice covert thought control by stealing library books or removing cards from the card catalog.

d their most pain

Gordon Bennett, a retired Helena district judge, said the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding an Ohio law allowing the search of a home for child pornography is the most significant First Amendment decision in a quarter of a century. Along with trampling rights of privacy and freedoms clearly stated in the Bill of Rights.

#### January 21-28 declared Montana Book Week

In honor of the role libraries have played in promoting literacy and providing access to the state's rich literary heritage, Gov. Stan Stephens has declared Jan. 21-28, 1990, to be Montana Book Week.

This is the first state ever proclaimed in Montana. It occurs the same time as Book Week, which is co-sponsored by the Library of Congress for the Book and the National Book Awards.

The governor's proclamation stressed the level of literacy in the United States (estimated at 50 percent) and encouraged

Members of the Montana State Library Commission are expected to inaugurate the state's Center for the Book and vote on proposed library construction projects during their bi-monthly meeting Wednesday, May 2.

An inaugural reception for the Center for the Book will start at 9 a.m. in the State Library conference room, 1315 E. Sixth Ave. Gov. Stan Stephens, his wife Ann, and several Montana authors have been asked to attend. Refreshments will be served and dis-

plays of books by Montana writers and about the state will be featured. The commission meeting will begin at 10 a.m., with time set aside for public comment.

Commission members also are scheduled to select a Montana resident to receive funds to attend graduate library school, and hear a report on the fiscal 1988 and 1989 State Library audit.

Montana's proposal to establish a Center for the Book is expected to be approved April 23 by the National Center's board of direc-

tors. It will be housed at the State Library in Helena, with satellite centers at the Lewis and Clark Public Library in Helena, the Flathead County Library in Kalispell, the Park County Billings Library and the Great Falls Public Library.

State Centers for the Book are affiliated with the National Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. Their purpose is to focus attention on a state's literary heritage and encourage reading and literacy.



## Commissioners

Three new members joined the Montana State Library Commission in fiscal 1990. They are:

- **Lloyd Wallin**, Deer Lodge businessman and Kohrs Memorial Library board member;
- **Anne Hauptman**, Billings, former Eastern Montana College teacher, and,
- **Michael Schulz**, Dillon, Western Montana College library director.

Wallin and Hauptman were appointed by Gov. Stan Stephens to replace Dr. Henry McClernan of Butte and Marie Thompson of Billings; Schulz was appointed by Higher Education Commissioner Carrol Krause to replace Dr. Ruth Patrick of Missoula.

The other Commission members during fiscal 1990 were: **Mary Doggett**, chair, public library board member, White Sulphur Springs; **C.E. Abramson**, vice-chair, businessman, Missoula; **Cheri Bergeron**, Superintendent of Public Instruction designee, Helena, and **Mary Hudspeth**, Lincoln County Superintendent of Schools, Libby.

Every two years, the Commission adopts a mission statement that sets out goals and policies for the Commission and the State Library. The Pine Butte Mission Statement was adopted during fiscal 1990 and directs the State Library to encourage literacy programs, explore innovative partnerships to improve library services, develop an active public information program, enhance library services to the inadequately served and assist libraries with integrating different data sources into their services. Commission members agreed to actively seek adequate general fund revenue to support State Library programs, and, by extension, all libraries in Montana.

## Administration

The Administration unit of the State Library includes the state librarian, accounting and support staff. During fiscal 1990, administration:

- hosted the annual meeting of the **Chief Officers of State Library Agencies**, which comprises state librarians of all 50 states;
- established a **Montana Center for the Book**, (affiliated with the National Center for the Book at the Library of Congress), with the purpose of focusing on the state's thriving literary scene;
- produced an **editorial** on the occasion of National Library Week that was distributed to newspapers statewide;
- started planning for the **Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services**, scheduled for January 6-8, 1991, in Helena;
- coordinated Montana-related activities for the **American Library Association's Annual Legislative Day**, during which officials visited the state's Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., to discuss library-related concerns;
- participated as an initial partner in establishing the state's **electronic bulletin board**, and,

• hosted a visit by **Dr. Anne J. Mathews**, director of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, Library Programs, for the U.S. Department of Education.

## Natural Resource Information System

Access to information about Montana's vast natural resources is vital to economic growth and responsible resource decisions. The Natural Resource Information System (NRIS), along with the Montana Natural Heritage Program, makes access to such data possible.

Since their creation by the legislature in 1985, NRIS/Heritage programs have achieved great success in helping business, industry and government agencies. Staff regularly access various data bases to respond to more than 400 data requests each year.

NRIS projects are:

- The **Montana Natural Resource Index**, which lists more than 11,000 natural resource-related documents on file at the State Library and at other state agencies.
- The **Water Information System**, which links all major water resource data bases nationwide and approximately 15 others managed by state agencies, and provides access to data on surface water, groundwater and well logs, water quality, riparian areas, water rights and more.
- The **Geographic Information System (GIS)**, which has developed more than 100 map products for state and federal project managers.
- The **Natural Heritage Program**, which has a 3,000-record computerized inventory of Montana's biological resources emphasizing rare, threatened or endangered species and biological communities. This unique data base is used by the public and private sectors to balance economic development with conservation.



Visiting with Montana's Congressional delegation on ALA Legislative Day in April were, left to right: State Librarian Richard Miller, State Library Commission Chair Mary Doggett, Lewis & Clark Public Library Director Debbie Schlesinger, U.S. Congressman Pat Williams, Commission Member Dr. Ruth Patrick, and Commission Member Abe Abramson.



## Information Resources

Information Resources (IR) is the library of the State of Montana. IR provides reference and information services to state agencies, state employees and the general public and lends materials either directly to patrons or through academic, school, special or public libraries. IR also provides centralized library materials acquisition, cataloging and technical processing and operates the state's documents depository center.

For state government in fiscal 1990, IR staff:

- Answered 8,637 information requests;
- Circulated 5,272 items, and,
- Performed 383 on-line searches.

For Montana libraries in fiscal 1990, IR staff:

- Answered 5,229 information requests;
- Circulated 4,137 items;
- Distributed 3,526 state publications;
- Responded to 540 800-number phone calls, and,
- Performed 299 on-line searches.

In fiscal 1990, the following were added to the IR collection:

- 476 titles to the book collection;
- 18,206 volumes to the federal publications collection, and,
- 419 titles to the state publications collection.

In April 1990, IR State Publications Distribution Center staff began a "selective" depository program. Six libraries are signed up as full depositories; four are selected depositories, and eight signed up to receive core collections only.

The Grantsmanship Bibliography, providing title information for all of the State Library's collection related to grants, foundations and fundraising, was revised and updated.

## Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

The Montana State Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped (LBPH) provides free library services for thousands of individuals who are visually or physically handicapped.

The library loans books and magazines in a variety of formats to eligible individuals and institutions. Special playback equipment is also provided. All materials and equipment are provided at no charge and are mailed "Free Matter" both to and from patrons.

Montanans certified by an authorized authority as having at least one of the following reading disabilities are eligible for library service:

- Blindness - anyone who is certified as legally blind
- Visual Handicap - anyone unable to read standard print without special aids
- Physical Handicap - anyone who, because of a physical limitation, is unable to use standard printed materials
- Reading Disability - anyone certified by a physician as having an organic dysfunction of sufficient severity to prevent reading in a normal manner



*State Library staff members pose with the Governor's Award of Excellence received in February 1990 during a ceremony at the Capitol rotunda.*

The LBPH is a regional branch of the Library of Congress, which provides the recorded books, braille materials and special playback equipment.

The LBPH has realized dramatic increases in circulation and readership. During the past 10 years, circulation has increased 93%, and readership has gone up 36%. In fiscal 1990, the LBPH circulated 122,938 books compared to 104,158 books in fiscal 1989.

Continued circulation and readership growth without accompanying growth in staffing has created a reliance upon volunteers to help accomplish daily tasks. During fiscal 1990, LBPH began working with Helena's court-ordered restitution program to secure badly needed help.

During 1989, 72 persons were involved with programs operating under the auspices of the Montana State Library Volunteer Program. This included all volunteer support at the Montana State Library, the Telephone Pioneers and the inmate employees of the Montana State Prison Recording Program. These volunteers and inmate employees contributed a total of 10,080 hours at a fair market value of \$91,596. The LBPH formally recognized all volunteers at a luncheon held at Jorgenson's Restaurant.

While the library is serving approximately 2,400 individuals and institutions, outreach continues to the many eligible citizens who are not receiving services. A combined effort between Montana State Library staff and the Library of Congress/National Library Service resulted in public service ads being sent to all Montana daily and weekly newspapers. Special mailings were conducted to reach out to targeted populations.

The Montana Cassette Book Program, a volunteer program charged with recording materials by Montanans or about Montana, continued to produce quality materials for circulation to patrons. During 1989, 25 books were recorded by volunteer and inmate recording teams. Hundreds of additional titles remain to be recorded, and completed books are in high demand.

The *Montana Cassette Book Catalog* was published and distributed during fiscal 1990. All Montana books currently available in recorded format are listed with an accompanying annotation. Order forms are provided with catalogs distributed to library patrons.



Fundraising and grant funds enabled the LBPH to buy new recording machines for the three recording studios used by the Montana Cassette Book Program. Two of the studios are located at the Montana State Prison, and the third studio is at the Montana State Library.

During fiscal 1990, LBPH began recording *The Last Best Place*, the anthology of Montana writings. This project is expected to take approximately one year.



Members of the Library Development Unit set up and staffed the State Library's exhibit booth at the Montana Library Association's 1990 annual conference held in Great Falls.

## Library Development

Library Development (LD) staff members consult with libraries, administer grants, produce publications, conduct workshops, and otherwise help libraries meet their goal of providing services with a high degree of professionalism.

Consulting services during fiscal 1990 helped library staff who were: conducting a campaign to pass an emergency library levy; dealing with censorship attempts; automating a library; planning for a new library; hiring a library director, and writing collection management policies.

In fiscal 1990, Montana's six library federations received \$1,000 per public library for federation activities and services, courtesy of House Bill 193. This was the first time the general fund has been the source of federation support. The money, administered by LD, was used for various library improvements, including equipment and furnishings, computers and software, books, interlibrary loan and continuing education.

LD projects during fiscal 1990 included:

- The **Materials Delivery Project**, an LSCA-funded pilot project, was conducted in south central, west central and western Montana. It tested the speed and efficiency of a "courier" service to deliver library materials between and among libraries. Academic, public, school and special libraries participated. UPS received the contract for daily delivery and pick up to and from the libraries involved. One library reported at the end of the demonstration period that delivery was not faster than the regular mail; however, a more comprehensive evaluation involving all participants will be undertaken.

- **Collection Development** has been a priority of the Library Services Advisory Council and the State Library Commission. In previous years, LD was responsible for training related to writing collection management and collection development policies and collection assessment. Coordinated or cooperative collection development activities seemed the next logical step. The Academic and Depository projects were meetings of representatives of the state's Academic and Federal Documents Depository Libraries to plan cooperative or coordinated collection development projects. Each group's product will be shared with the state's libraries and the general public.

- LD staff conducted an **LSCA grant workshop and confidentiality of library records workshop** at the Montana Library Association's annual conference in Great Falls. This was an opportunity for LD staff to provide continuing education on two subjects of great interest and timeliness for the library community.

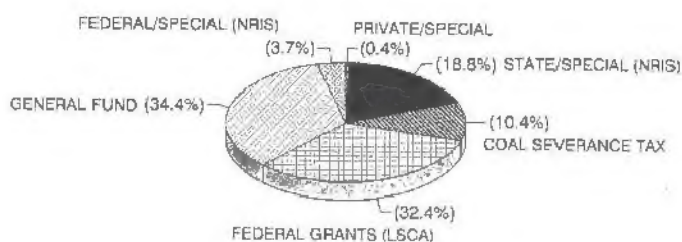
LD's Publicity Specialist position was rewritten in fiscal 1990 to include consulting on library services to children and youth. (As a result, a statewide summer reading program will be offered for the first time to all public libraries and branches in the summer of 1991.)

LD staff produces two bi-monthly newsletters, the Montana Library Directory, the Annual Report of Statistics, the agency's annual report, brochures, press releases, bookmarks, fact sheets and any other printed materials required by the agency.

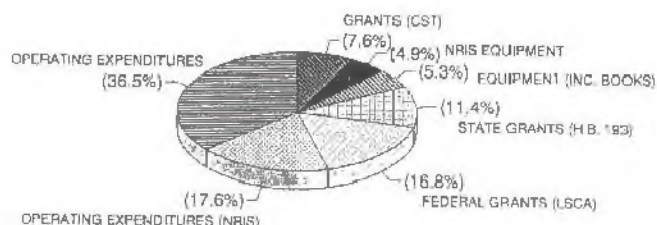
## MONTANA STATE LIBRARY FUNDING

TOTAL FISCAL 1990 BUDGET: \$2,477,853

WHERE IT COMES FROM:



WHERE IT GOES:



NOTE:  
PERCENTAGES ARE ROUNDED